



Employee News

October/November 2003

News and Information for Families of individuals at Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital during the transition to community-based services.

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (IPAS) is a federally funded state agency, independent from other state agencies and service providers. IPAS works to protect and promote the rights of individuals with disabilities and/or mental illness through empowerment and advocacy.

IPAS was established in 1977 in response to federal requirements for a program to advocate for the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. This was a result of requirements that came from the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act, known as the DD Act, administered by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD). Since then, five more programs have been added. The staff and programs of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities are part of the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Each of the IPAS programs serves the advocacy needs of a specific group of individuals with disabilities. Over the past 25 years, IPAS staff has worked very hard and effectively to empower thousands of Hoosiers with disabilities and their families as they strive to live their lives as independently and productively as possible.

(Continued on page 2)

Governor Kernan Appoints Cheryl Sullivan as FSSA Secretary

Governor Joe Kernan has chosen Cheryl Sullivan of Indianapolis to be the new Secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.



Sullivan, who served as the head of FSSA under former Governor Evan Bayh, comes to FSSA from her former post as vice chancellor for External Affairs at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. In that position, she was the liaison between the IUPUI campus and its constituencies in federal, state and local government, business and industry.

Prior to her appointment by Gov. Bayh, Sullivan was the bureau director of Family Health Services within the Indiana State Department of Health. Her background also includes experience at the Riley Child Development Center at the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis and the Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities, Indiana University-Bloomington.

“Obviously, Cheryl’s credentials speak for themselves,” said Kernan. “We need someone with her expertise - her in-depth knowledge of the agency, the federal and state programs it administers, and the people it serves - and I am so pleased that

(Continued on page 3)

(Indiana Protection & Advocacy, continued from page 1)

Through providing information and referral, individual and systemic advocacy or legal representation, the IPAS staff seeks ways to empower clients through assisting or providing them with effective approaches to problem resolution.

IPAS carries out the functions of six federally funded programs for Indiana. Each program advocates for the rights of the individual with the disability. To receive our services, each program requires that the problem must be related to the person's disability, such as a denial of a right or discrimination.

•**CAP- Client Assistance Program:**

Assists individuals with disabilities in resolving disputes with Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the state's independent living centers.

•**PADD – Protection and Advocacy of the Rights of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities:**

Assists individuals with developmental disabilities secure their rights and live free from abuse and neglect

•**PAIMI – Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness:**

Assists individuals with mental illness in securing their rights to appropriate psychiatric treatment as well as other rights.

•**PAIR – Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights:**

Assists individuals with disabilities - not eligible for other IPAS programs - in securing their disability-related rights.

•**PAAT – Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology:**

Assists individuals with disabilities in obtaining assistive technology services and devices.


•**PABSS – Protection and Advocacy for**

(Continued on page 3)



Sandy Morrow and Shelley Geer

Staff Pass State Exam

Several MSDC staff completed a course in phlebotomy last year. Some participants went on to complete an externship. Students also had the option of taking the state exam to become officially certified phlebotomists. Congratulations to D.S.T.s, Shelley Geer and Sandy Morrow, and retiree Gordennell Griner for successfully completing the eighty-question exam. 

**Message from
Nikki Morrell**

Construction of the Southeast Regional Center continues. The first meeting of the Southeast Regional Services Steering Team was held on October 7, 2003 at Madison State Hospital. The Steering Team will meet monthly, reviewing the progress of grants, and working on organizational structure and goals for the 18-county region. Suzanne Clifford participated in the first meeting by telephone, clarifying FSSA's expectations and expected outcomes.

(New FSSA Secretary announced, continued from page 1)

she has agreed to take the reins at FSSA.”

While secretary of FSSA between 1993 and 1997, Sullivan led the development of Indiana’s welfare reform project, which

She also has experience in transitioning men and women with mental illness and developmental disabilities from state facilities to community-based care

reduced the number of families on public assistance by 30 percent, saving taxpayers over \$143 million. She also has experience in transitioning men and women with mental illness and developmental

disabilities from state facilities to community-based care, as well as restructuring the state Medicaid program.

“Governor Kernan and I are committed to serving Indiana’s most vulnerable populations compassionately and effectively. At the same time, we are mindful that we are accountable to the taxpayers of Indiana for the resources they have entrusted to us,” said Sullivan.

Sullivan received a bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Maryland, and a master’s in Environmental Science from Indiana University. She has also completed the State and Local Program for Senior Executives at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Sullivan began her duties at FSSA on Oct. 20.

The FSSA is the state’s largest agency, serving hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers every day through the Division of Family and Children; Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitation Services; Division of Mental Health and Addiction; and the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning.

Conference for People with Disabilities To Focus on Community

The 2003 Indiana Conference for People with Disabilities is Dec. 2nd and 3rd at the Westin hotel in downtown Indianapolis. The Conference will feature workshops on political strategies, housing, self-employment, the Help America Vote Act, faith-based initiatives, inclusive education, positive behavioral support, creating inclusive communities, and more. For more information and a registration form contact the Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities by:

Telephone: 317-232-7770,
E-mail: GPCPD@GPCPD.ORG or
Internet: <http://www.in.gov/gpcpd/>

(Indiana Protection & Advocacy, continued from page 2)

Beneficiaries of Social Security: Protects the rights of individuals with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) who want to work or want to return to work.

IPAS is independent of state governmental control and is governed by a 13-member IPAS Commission that sets the agency’s priorities. IPAS advocates carryout priority activities as well as provide information and referral, technical assistance, and other short-term advocacy services. A 10-member Mental Illness Advisory Council (MIAC) advises IPAS on Mental Illness matters.

IPAS contact information is as follows.
1-317-722-5555, 1-800-622-4845
www.IN.gov/ipas



Keep In Mind

Indiana Protection & Advocacy Services

317-722-5555 or

1-800-622-4845

Div. of Disability, Aging & Rehab
Services:

800-545-7763

Div. of Mental Health & Addiction:

800-901-1133

MSDC/MSH Info Hot Line:

800-903-9822

Ombudsman:

800-622-4484

Inside This Issue

- Conference for People with Disabilities
- Governor Kernan Appoints New FSSA Secretary
- Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services
- Message from Nikki Morrell
- Spotlight on: Sandy Morrow and Shelley Geer

Future Issues

- ◆ Resources
- ◆ Your Ideas

“..we will never forget that this government belongs to all of us. It is our challenge -- together -- to make the torch flame burn brightly. And to light the way for a brighter future for all our families.”

*excerpt from former Governor
O'Bannon's 1997 Inaugural Address*

State of Indiana
Family and Social Services Administration
402 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 7083
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7083

Name
Address
City, State, Zip Code